



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

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AGREEMENT INSURES SACRAMENTO RIVER FLOW FOR FISHERY RESOURCES

Two agreements have been executed with the California Department of Fish and Game relative to the release of stored water from Bureau of Reclamation reservoirs to maintain fish and wildlife resources in the Sacramento River and its tributaries, the Department of the Interior announced today.

Commissioner of Reclamation Floyd E. Dominy said the agreements formalized the current operating policies of the Central Valley Reclamation Project. Minimum water releases agreed to, he said, would not interfere with project operations and the minimum flows agreed upon conformed to those used in current planning studies for the project.

The two agreements are summarized as follows:

1. An agreement to release into the Sacramento River at Keswick Dam, north of Redding, California, flows of at least 2,600 to 3,900 c.f.s., except during critically dry years when flows can be reduced to 2,000 to 2,800 c.f.s. The agreement also contains a proviso that in the event of "extremely critical conditions during the period December 1 through February 28, the flow may be reduced below 2,000 c.f.s. by agreement between the parties."

2. An agreement to release into Clear Creek, a tributary of the Sacramento, an annual quantity of about 24,700 acre-feet of water from the Whiskeytown Dam of the Trinity River Division, Central Valley Project, soon to be constructed northwest of Redding. The water would be released at varying rates up to 100 c.f.s. during November and December to no releases during June through September, when irrigation water is released.

The Keswick Dam releases are intended to protect and maintain the fish and wildlife resources of the Sacramento River and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Such resources of major economic importance include salmon, steelhead, striped bass, shad, waterfowl and others.

In an endeavor to achieve the best possible conditions for salmon reproduction by reducing fluctuations in river stage, releases of water from Keswick Dam from September 1 through December 31 will be made with a minimum of fluctuation or change to the extent compatible with other operational requirements.

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